Bangladesh—In a statement, issued on January 22, 1993, our Spokesman stated, *inter alia*, that the violent reactions in Bangladesh, which resulted in excessive damage to and destruction of hundreds of temples, houses, commercial establishments and other properties, had caused untold sufferings and deep insecurity among the people belonging to the minority community in Bangladesh.

Afghanistan—Our Head of Mission in Kabul took up this matter with the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan on two occasions on December 7 and December 9, 1992.

U.K.—Our High Commissioner in London called on the British Home Secretary and also remained in constant touch with leaders of Indian origin communities, as well as with Members of Parliament and police in various parts of the United Kingdom, where trouble had occurred with a view to promoting peace and communal harmony.

Indian Projects to be undertaken in U.K. and U.S.S.R.

1762. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH :

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Indian projects have been identified to be undertaken in (England) Britain and in USSR in bilateral issues during recent visit of Prime Minister of Britain and Russian President;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the result/outcome thereof;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom;

(d) whether USSR has put any proposal for power and Industrial projects in India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) During President Yeltsin's visit no concrete proposal for power and Industrial project was discussed.

(e) Does not arise.

Davos Forum meet

1763. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India pulled out of Davos forum meet;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to clarify the doubts and apprehensions in foreign business community ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH : (a) and (b) No, Sir. India was represented at the Annual meeting of the World Economic Forum at Davos that took place recently by over 30 senior industrialists as well as representatives of the Confederation of Indian Industry. Shri P. Chidambaram, Member of Parliament, was also present.

(c) Government of India has reiterated on several occasions its commitment to continuing the process of economic reforms. The international business community is by and large convinced about the irreversability of the reform process and has indicated its renewed confidence in the Indian economy and in our economic policies. Over the past few weeks, there have been several business and industrial delegations which have visited India from all over the world and expressed their firm interest in investing in India. Steps taken recently by the Government of India such as amendment of FERA by Ordinance, announcement of guidelines for new private sector banks, and the unification of exchange rates and other measures announced in the budget proposals for 1993-94 have further served to reassure foreign investors on Government's commitment to the economic reform programme.